DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 366 513 SE 054 166

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TITLE GrowLab: Activities for Growing Minds.
INSTITUTION National Gardening Association, Burlington, VT.
SPONS AGENCY National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-915873-32-X
PUB DATE 90
NOTE 307p.; For a companion document in the GrowLab series, see SE 054 165.
AVAILABLE FROM National Gardening Association, 180 Flynn Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Instructional Materials (For Learner) (051) -- Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Biological Sciences; Class Activities; *Discovery Learning; Elementary Education; Elementary School Science; Experiential Learning; *Horticulture; Investigations; Junior High Schools; Plant Growth; *Plants (Botany); *Problem Solving; *Science Activities; Science Curriculum; *Science Instruction; Secondary School Science
IDENTIFIERS *Gardening; Science Process Skills

ABSTRACT

As students observe plant growth, the questions that naturally arise can provide opportunities for student exploration and discovery. This guide presents a collection of activities for students in grades K-8 that turn students' questions into life sciences learning experiences. The guide contains four chapters, each with background information and sections of related activities. An activity summary outlines the activities in each chapter, including topics and science process skills covered, duration, and grade ranges. In Chapter 1, students investigate plant life, from seed to full-grown plant, exploring basic plant needs, plant structures, plant responses to their environment, and green plants' ability to make food. In Chapter 2, students observe plant life cycles and discover the structures and processes involved in plant reproduction. In Chapter 3, students explore the diversity of life and how we make sense of this diversity. In Chapter 4, students investigate how humans use plants, how our actions can affect them, and how we can lessen our negative impact in the global garden. Six appendices contain specific and general activity reproducibles, a list of interdisciplinary activity ideas as plants are maturing, instructions for using Wisconsin Fast Plants Kits, selected resource books for students and teachers, and seed sources. An index of terms is included. (MDH)

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